SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 13, 2025
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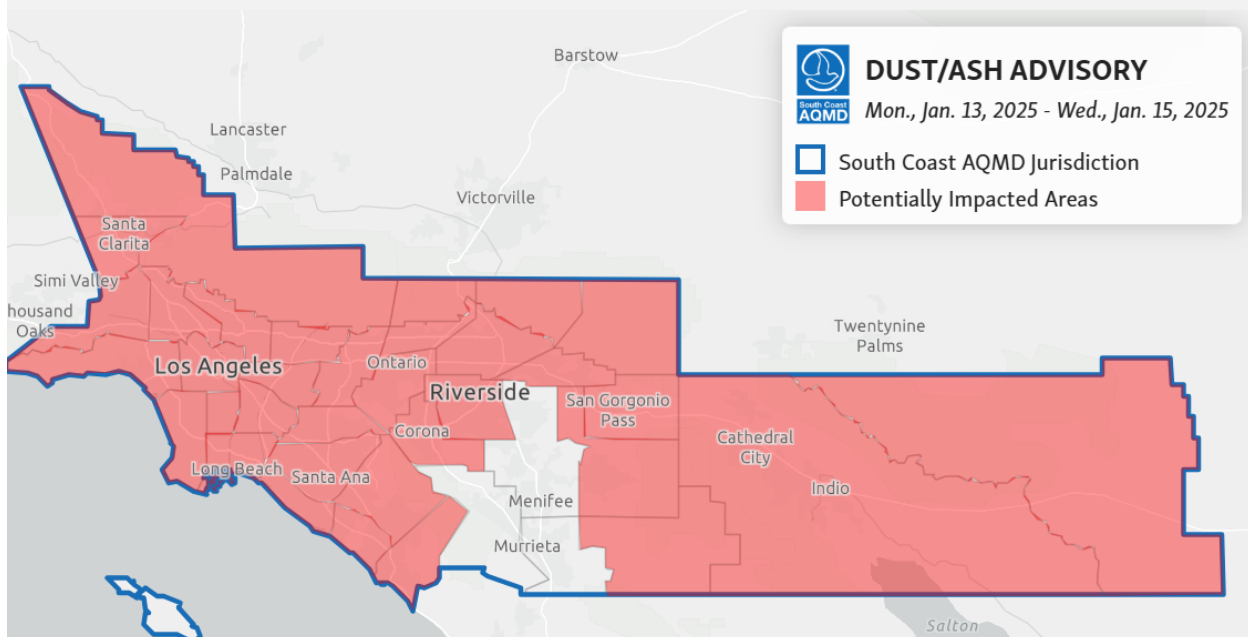Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431
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South Coast AQMD Extends Windblown Dust and Ash Advisory

Valid until Wednesday 7:00 PM

Current Conditions

- The South Coast AQMD has extended a windblown dust and ash advisory due to strong Santa Ana winds expected throughout the region until Wednesday evening. The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Warnings throughout the area. Visit the NWS San Diego www.weather.gov/sgx and NWS Los Angeles www.weather.gov/lox websites for more information.

To view current air quality in your neighborhood, download the South Coast AQMD app or visit www.aqmd.gov/AQImap.

Forecasted Air Quality Impacts

Windblown Ash

- High winds may disperse ash from the Palisades and Eaton impact zones. Winds may also disperse ash from the Hurst, Kenneth, Line, Airport, and Bridge fire burn scars
- Ash impacts are possible in all areas to the south and west of these burned areas
- Windblown ash particles may be too large to be detected by air quality instrumentation and will not influence Air Quality Index (AQI) levels. However, ash particles are typically visible to the naked eye either in the air or on outdoor surfaces
- Windblown ash from burned structures may contain higher air toxic levels. If you see windblown ash, take precautions to reduce exposure

Windblown Dust

- Blowing dust may result in AQI levels that are Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or worse in portions of Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside Counties in the South Coast Air Basin and the Coachella Valley.
- High PM10 levels in the region may result from gusty Santa Ana winds, which can lift dust and soil into the air
- Wind speeds and PM10 levels are expected to decrease throughout the region starting on Wednesday
- Air quality can vary by hour and location depending on wind conditions

Detailed Forecast

Monday evening	High winds will likely lead to unhealthful levels of windblown ash and dust
Tuesday daytime	Winds are expected to decrease slightly in the afternoon hours leading to slight improvements in windblown ash and dust levels
Tuesday evening	High winds will likely lead to unhealthful levels of windblown ash and dust
Wednesday	Winds will decrease throughout the day on Wednesday, leading to improvements in air quality

South Coast AQMD will issue an update if additional information becomes available.

If you are in an area impacted by windblown dust or ash:

- Limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed or seeking alternate shelter.
- Avoid vigorous physical activity.

- Run your air conditioning and/or an air purifier. If possible, do not use swamp coolers or whole house fans that bring in outside air.
- Help minimize dust pollution by stabilizing loose soils and slowing down if driving on dirt roads.
- Always wear proper personal protective equipment (long sleeve shirts, pants, gloves and safety glasses) when working around ash. A well-fitting respirator such as an N-95 may provide some protection. If you do get ash on your skin, wash it off as soon as possible.
- Do not use leaf blowers or take other actions (e.g., dry sweeping) that will put ash into the air. To clean up ash, use vacuums equipped with High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters.

For more information, see the EPA Guide for Particle Pollution (PDF).

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at www.aqmd.gov, download our award-winning app, or follow us on Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter) and Instagram.

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